



Director of
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Intelligence

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National Intelligence Daily

Friday
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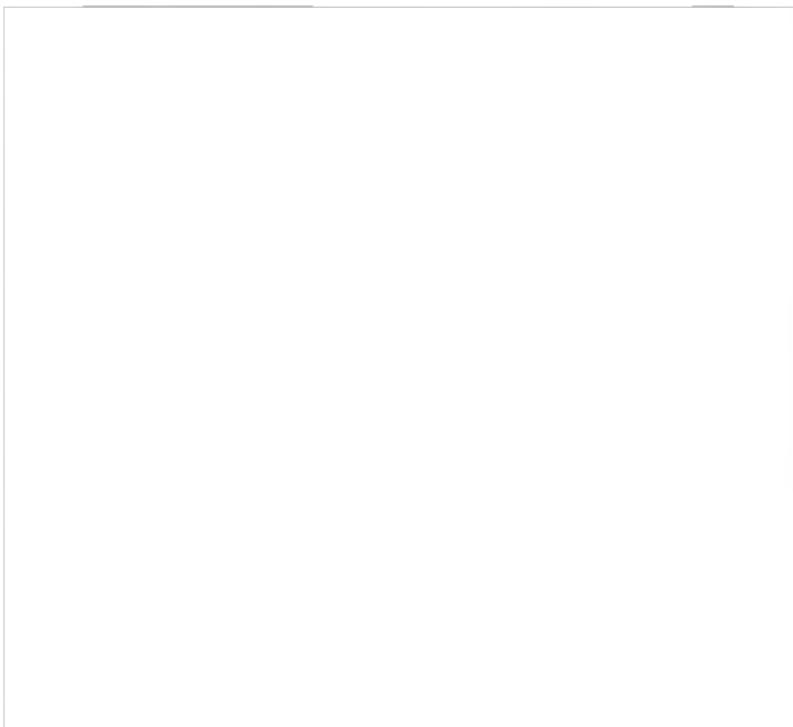
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BRIEFS AND COMMENTS



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ZIMBABWE: White Military Commander Quitting

The retirement of armed forces commander Walls, announced yesterday in Salisbury, creates yet another delicate political problem for the Mugabe government.

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Walls has been frustrated by the slow pace of forming a new national army from various guerrilla factions and the former Rhodesian army and by the lack of discipline among the guerrillas. In addition, he has been faced with the uncooperativeness and incompetence of Rex Nhongo, the military commander of the Zimbabwe African National Union.

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Walls also may have concluded that there is simply no future for whites in Zimbabwe over the longer term. His departure will add to the fears of whites and could set off a new wave of emigration and mass resignations of whites from the military.

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Prime Minister Mugabe, who had developed a close relationship with Walls, will have difficulty replacing him. Although Army commander Maclean is regarded as competent, he probably would not work well with black commanders.

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Nhongo and his counterpart in the Zimbabwe African People's Union are not of Walls' caliber. Either would object to the selection of the other to fill the post. All parties will view Mugabe's choice of a successor as an indication of the direction in which the government is moving.

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NORTH KOREA: Succession Issue

Discussion of the succession issue within the North Korean leadership evidently is intensifying as Pyongyang prepares for its long-delayed party congress.

Since at least 1973, North Korean President Kim Il-song has been actively grooming his eldest son, Kim Chong-il, as his successor. The elder Kim has kept his succession plans under wraps, however, to give his son an opportunity to gain acceptance and legitimacy at home and to avoid a lame-duck status for himself. North Korea also is sensitive to foreign perceptions of an emerging Kim "dynasty," particularly on the part of China and the USSR.

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In recent weeks North Korea has aired a series of broadcasts that appear to be arguing the case for publicly designating Kim's son as successor while Kim Il-song is still alive and the ultimate source of authority. There is no evidence that the 68-year-old Kim's health is failing, and he is maintaining an active public schedule.

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The broadcasts have been carried by an unofficial radio used by Pyongyang to raise sensitive issues with which the regime does not wish to be directly or publicly associated. They seem to reflect behind-the-scenes maneuvering over the succession issue in anticipation of the party's Sixth Congress in October--the first major party gathering in 10 years and an obvious forum for announcing Kim Chong-il's succession.

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A broadcast yesterday seemed to acknowledge that Kim's succession plan is unpopular with some in North Korea, especially senior leaders who might have ambitions of their own. In remarkably candid terms, it admonished veteran members of Kim Il-song's inner circle, stating that their "advanced age" rules them out as likely successors.

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INDIA-PAKISTAN: Dialogue to Continue

The latest round of high-level talks between India and Pakistan produced no breakthroughs on contentious issues, but both sides want the dialogue to continue. [redacted]

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Afghanistan and the normalization of bilateral relations were the most important issues discussed during Pakistani Foreign Minister Agha Shahi's three-day visit to New Delhi this week. Both sides agree on the need for a political solution in Afghanistan and want to see all Soviet troops withdrawn, but they continue to differ on approach and methods. [redacted]

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Traditional sensitivities still hamper the Indo-Pakistani dialogue. The Indians reportedly objected to the public references by Shahi to India's recent arms purchases from the USSR and to his remarks about resolving the Kashmir dispute; they prefer to discuss such delicate matters only behind closed doors. [redacted]

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Neither side appears to have expected significant results. Both want the normalization process to go forward but understand the need to build mutual confidence before the specifics of key issues can be addressed. [redacted]

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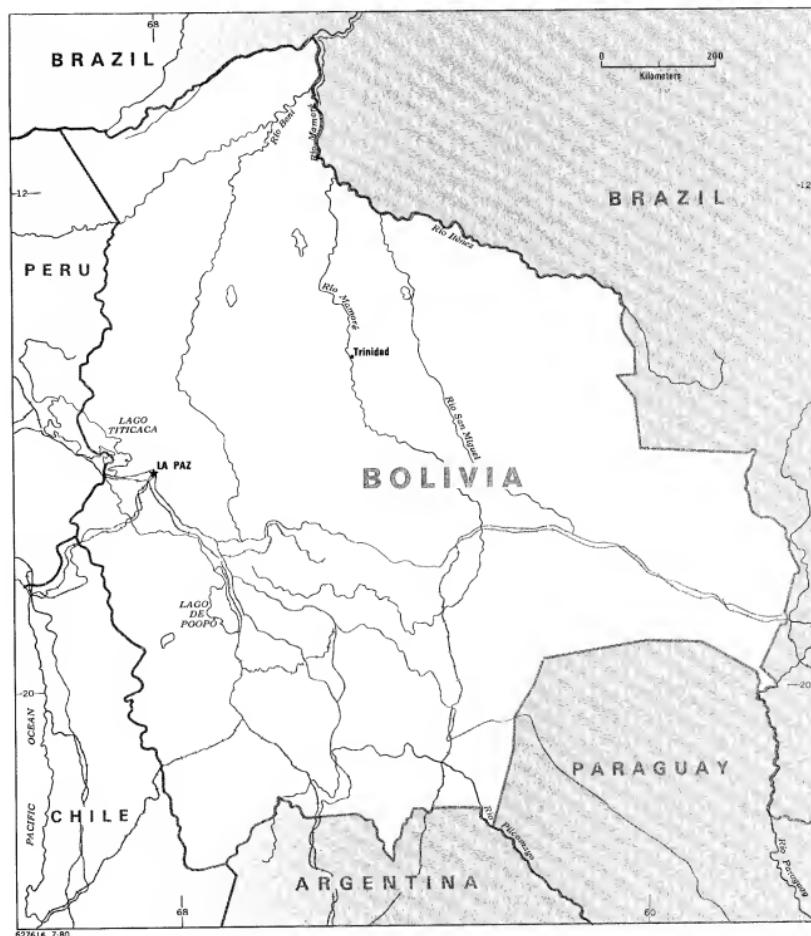
Both countries apparently hope that continuing meetings will gradually foster such confidence or at least prevent relations from deteriorating to the dangerous levels of the past. Indian Foreign Minister Rao has accepted an invitation to visit Islamabad, presumably after new talks at a lower level in New Delhi. [redacted]

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BOLIVIA: Military Takeover

The Bolivian military, which yesterday seized control from interim President Gueiler and announced that a junta composed of the three service commanders will govern the country, faces almost certain opposition both at home and from abroad.

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The coup, which began yesterday with a military takeover in Trinidad, spread to other key cities and culminated with units in the La Paz area taking control of the capital and national government. The military moved quickly to round up several government officials and civilian opponents, although the winner of the recent presidential election, Hernan Siles Zuazo, apparently is still in hiding. Curfews have been imposed, radio stations in the major cities have been seized, and pressure is being put on President Gueiler to formally resign.

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POLAND: Unrest in Lublin

Widespread labor unrest in Lublin yesterday, triggered by economic grievances, appears to be the most serious in Poland since meat price increases on 1 July led to a series of strikes.

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The disturbances--highlighted by railroad workers blocking the tracks with their locomotives--ended the calm that prevailed in Poland for several days. Strikes were reported in many plants in the city, and military vehicles are said to be delivering food to stores and hospitals.

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Demand for wage increases apparently are fueling the protests. A number of other grievances, ranging from frustration over meat and other food shortages to complaints over specific working conditions, also are contributing to the recurring unrest throughout the country.

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In an apparent hint that continued disorder could provoke Soviet military intervention, party chief Gierek yesterday said that "lack of discipline" was endangering the country.

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The regime's stance since the initial strikes in early July has generally been conciliatory. Although the meat price hikes--which no longer seem to be an important contributor to the labor turmoil--were not rescinded, the regime has granted wage increases, averaging 10 percent, to at least some striking workers.

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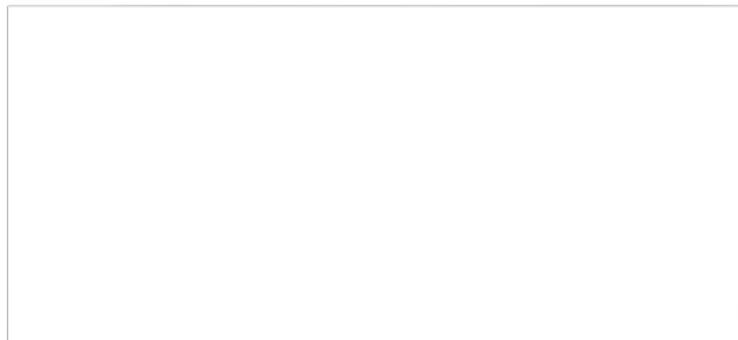
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LIBERIA-USSR: Invitation From Moscow

Sergeant Doe's acceptance of an invitation by President Brezhnev to visit the USSR at some unspecified future date is the first open sign of the new government's efforts to broaden its international ties beyond its traditional close alignment with the US. [redacted]

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[redacted] Foreign Minister Matthews wants to establish a nonaligned foreign policy and has no intention of favoring Moscow or allowing it to interfere in Liberia's affairs. [redacted] the Doe government has given the USSR permission to expand the size of its Embassy staff in Monrovia. The mission was cut back early last year following riots over the price of rice, which the Tolbert government suspected were encouraged by the Soviets. [redacted]

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ANGOLA: Aid to UNITA

Jonas Savimbi, leader of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, recently received renewed foreign pledges of financial and military support needed to step up the insurgency in the south.

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SOUTH AFRICA: Black Workers' Protests

Black labor unrest, which has intensified in recent months and spread to several important South African industries, forced a halt this week to construction of the country's third synthetic oil plant. Workers, complaining of tightened security procedures, began demonstrating Monday; several have been injured, and one white employee reportedly was killed by a black mob. The management of the project is planning to resume construction on Monday, but some workers are threatening to quit if their grievances are not met. Black industrial unrest, which is aggravated by specific labor problems and by the government's racial policies, probably will increase over the next few months and become more militant.

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